



**Office of the Attorney General
Paul G. Summers**

**Department of Commerce and Insurance
Commissioner Paula Flowers**

NEWS RELEASE

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Attorney General Joins 42 States in Agreement with Nation's Largest Retail Pharmacy

Tennessee Attorney General Paul G. Summers today announced that Tennessee has joined the Attorneys General of 42 other states and the District of Columbia in an agreement with CVS Pharmacy to help stop youth smoking.

As a result, the drug store chain has agreed to implement new procedures to reduce sales of cigarettes to minors at its more than 5400 retail stores in 34 states and Washington D.C.

"CVS joins a growing list of retailers who have demonstrated their commitment to keeping our youth tobacco-free," Attorney General Summers said.

The CVS agreement is the eighth such agreement produced by an ongoing, multi-state enforcement effort. Previous agreements cover all 7-Eleven, Wal-Mart, Walgreens and Rite Aid stores and all gas stations and convenience stores operating under the Conoco, Phillips 66 or 76, Exxon, Mobil, BP, Amoco and ARCO brand names, in the signing states. Launched in 2000, the multi-state enforcement effort by the group attorneys general focuses on retailers with poor records of selling tobacco products to minors. State laws prohibit such sales. The enforcement program's goal is to secure the companies' agreement to take specific corrective actions. The agreements incorporate "best practices" to reduce sales to minors, developed by the attorneys general in consultation with researchers and state and federal tobacco control officials.

Among the requirement of the agreement, CVS has agreed to check the government-issued identification of anyone purchasing tobacco who appears to be under age 27; prohibit self-service displays or free samples of tobacco, look-alike products or paraphernalia; hire an independent entity to conduct random compliance checks; limit tobacco signs and advertising to the area where those products are sold; and train employees on new company policies.